



Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

President's Message

from Bob Rettammel

***Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all
DCAGS Members and Your Families!***

I hope that 2017 was a good year for you and that 2018 brings a safe and healthy year.

Remember that on December 9, 2017 we have our Annual Show and Tell Program. Please bring any Genealogy item you think is worth showing to other members about your own family history. We appreciate also if you just come, whether you bring something or not. We are a community with the same interest so just being able to share stories is fine too. Hope to see you there!

In 2018 we will have exciting speakers for January, February, and March. On January 13th Eleanor Brinsko will talk about her visit to Norway in 2017 and genealogy in that country. On February 10th we welcome back Lori Bessler from the Wisconsin Historic Society.

On March 10th we will welcome Anna Cookova who is a specialist on Czech Research and a Czech/English language translator. Also planned in 2018 for Membership programs is an expert on Irish Genealogy. I hope that you can come. We also welcome visitors and new members to these programs and any other activities we offer as a society, i.e., July outing.

Lastly, I am working with the Board to plan a mini-conference that will bring our members together to share and learn from local Genealogy experts. I consider it a refresher for building new skills in genealogy research, writing, and using technology. We all can learn, including discovering who else in DCAGS might share your interest in the same genealogical topic area.

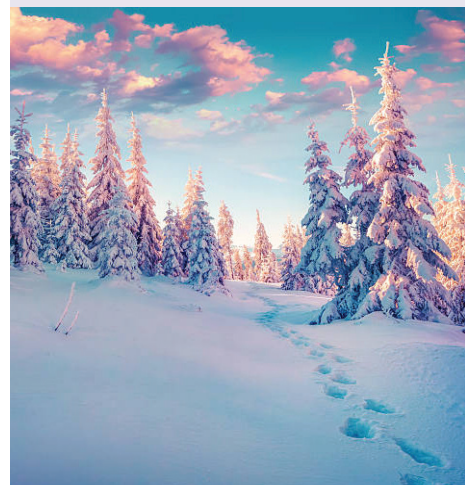
*Dec 2017 - Jan 2018
Volume 11 Issue 8*

Regular DCAGS meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 11:00 am at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 4505 Regent, Madison, WI.

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The DCAGS Governing Board meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:00 am at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 4505 Regent, Madison, WI. For more information, see:

www.dcags.wildapricot.org



Upcoming Membership Meetings/Speaker Programs

December 9

Our Annual Show and Tell Program is a great opportunity for members to come and share their genealogy work with fellow members. In the past we have had displays of traditional dress, uniforms, utensils, photographs, maps, family trees, albums, recipes, computer programs, and anything else that people wished to share. You are invited to sign up/register on our website to bring a show and tell so that we know how many tables will be needed for the displays.

Our December meeting is always a joyous sharing of our personal pasts, with conversation over treats and cider. It is a great time to meet other members and get new ideas. Please be thinking about what you can contribute to our December 9th meeting.

January 13

Eleanor Brinsko will be presenting a lecture on her genealogical research trip to Norway. Eleanor will describe the research that she began with, preparing for a genealogical research trip, and what informational resources that she used to enrich her genealogy.

Sponsor a Guest

DCAGS is offering an opportunity for members to sponsor a guest with a one year free membership. Here's how it would work:

1. Current members could sponsor a free one-time guest membership for a new guest and/or family with emailed newsletters and other electronic correspondence. No directories and no printed materials will be sent.
2. Thereafter, the guest may join as a regular member with full member benefits (newsletters, directory, emails, mailings and events).
3. The year for inclusion runs for the membership period-April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019. Members who wish to sponsor a free guest member would send an email to the DCAGS email address at widcags@gmail.com with the following information:
 - sponsor's name
 - guest's name
 - guest's address
 - guest's phone number and email address

This is an excellent opportunity to increase the visibility of DCAGS and promote membership.

So, send us the name of a guest.

How Sanborn Maps Helped Discover 2nd Great-Grandfather's Property

by Bob Rettammel

Recently I learned that Sanborn Maps after 1900 are available free through the Library of Congress website of digital collections www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/about-this-collection/. Sanborn fire insurance maps are a great research resource tool for looking at city neighborhoods at the time when your ancestor lived there. These maps were done for insurance underwriters, that showed street names, house block numbers, property lines and lots, and sometimes more with larger cities. This resource tool also helped me search for maps of the area of central, WI., in the 19th century.

they were said to be in central Wisconsin area and a baptism record in the local Catholic Church book has a child's birth listed in early 1864. An analysis of the baptism record does show a relationship between the child and my research subject.

This genealogical evidence helped prove that the family was in central WI area in early 1864. However, I was not positive that they lived in the village or in an outside surrounding community.

The father of this child was said to be a Blacksmith working for a Lumber Company, in logging camps during early 1880s.

information on the subject in Land

Records and maps for the timeline provided to me by client. To prove this with evidence, I reviewed Census records in Ancestry.com, Newspaper collections at the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS), and Land Records to learn more about my client's 2nd great-grandfather. I wanted to know if he was a Blacksmith and if a business location in the Village could be linked to him.

The U.S. 1880 census had the subject listed with his family in the Village. So that provided evidence with the previously found baptism record that the family was in the community, between 1864 and 1880. It does not mean they were there the whole 16 years, but it does show that two independently created evidence items (records) show some agreement in establishing a genealogical proof of residency of the family being researched.

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A recent genealogy client has ancestors who are believed to have immigrated from Ireland in approximately 1849. By 1863

To learn more about this ancestor and residence in the village, I needed to research original records that hopefully have primary

(Sandborn Maps, continued from page 3)

A review of Newspaper Collection at the WHS Library showed in the County Argus, 1868, under Business Directory section, my client's 2nd Great-Grandfather's name, listed as a Blacksmith and Carriage Finisher. The information was one source that provided proof that he was a Blacksmith. I still wanted to find a record source that would provide evidence of a Blacksmith shop or property that was owned by the subject.

To locate a property deed record I made a visit to the County

Register of Deeds Office and the Treasurer Office. This on-site research was very beneficial since I did locate information that my research subject had ownership in the original plat area of the Village. The tax roll also showed that he paid for four (4) Lots, near the River and that a saw mill was nearby the property. Based on this information, I wanted to look at maps of the period and compare to modern day layout of the city.

This led me to review on-line maps to see what buildings were

listed on Sanborn Maps from 1860s to 1900s in the county area. With the information collected on the Block Number and Lot numbers, I was able to determine the location more than 100 years ago and present day with Google Maps where the property is and determine that a structure for a house and blacksmith shop were on the land that my client's ancestors lived in late 19th Century, WI. My client plans to visit the location in the summer of 2018.

Ask DCAGS

We are hoping to help members who are experiencing a problem or "dead end" in their research. At the next membership meeting, stop at the Name Tags table where you can provide us with a description of your problem, with your name and phone number/email address. Bob Rettammel and helpers will respond with suggestions about how your situation might be approached. They will not do the genealogical work, but will offer ideas.



What's Been Done: Using Someone Else's Genealogy Research

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For more information, please visit Abundant Genealogy at <http://abundantgenealogy.com>

The “Outside Research” Problem

Here is a typical scenario encountered by genealogists of every skill level: you are given a box of “stuff” from a relative and told “this is our family history.” While you may be delighted at this sudden treasure trove, you should also be concerned about incorporating potentially misleading data into your current research.

How do you effectively review and incorporate information you’ve inherited including notes, family stories and more? How do you do so in such a way that honors and respects the contributions of other family members? And what about extracting “clues” from data that could prove unreliable?

Inherited Research Action Plan

- Perform a basic inventory.
- Track content.
- Evaluate research content.

- Incorporate proven information.
- Look at unproven information for possible clues.
- Share information with others responsibly.

Evaluating Research Content: A Step-by-Step Approach

Break down the information you have received into “data points.” Example: a typewritten family history from the 1970s contains a birth location for your great-grandfather and this is “new” information in terms of what you currently have in your research. Evaluate the source of the information and determine whether it supports the fact or not.

Evidence Evaluation Fields

The following fields can be used when working with The Board for Certification of Genealogists’ Skillbuilding: Guidelines for Evaluating Genealogical Resources

www.bcgcertification.org/skillbuilders/skblid085.html

by Linda Geiger.

They offer an excellent way to help analyze research data.

- **Source Type:** A source is Original if it is the first written statement, photograph, or recording of an event. Subsequent copies are Derivative and may be reproduced by hand, machine, camera or scanner; they may be reproduced on paper, in microform, as photographs or digital images, or in any other medium that records the image whether transcribed by hand or technology.
- **Clarity:** Use Clear if the information can easily be read. Use Marginal if information is not clear, is partially obscured and researcher must “guess” at words or letters.
- **Information Type:** Use Primary if a piece of

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information is recorded by a knowledgeable eyewitness or participant in that event, or by an official whose duties require him or her to make an accurate record of the event when it occurs. Use Secondary if information is supplied by someone who was not at the event and may include errors caused by memory loss or influenced by other parties who may have a bias or be under emotional stress.

- Evidence Type: Direct evidence is any fact that is explicitly stated. Indirect evidence is inferred from one or more pieces of evidence within the record.

Working with Other Researchers

When working with other family historians, you may encounter situations where there is disagreement as to facts about a common ancestor or relative. Also keep in mind that while we all have a similar goal

of documenting our family history, our journeys can be very different and you may have more or fewer skills than another researcher.

Correcting Information in a Collaborative Environment

We all started somewhere right? And if like me, you believe the genealogy journey is a learning process, you then understand that people make mistakes. Even you. But with genealogy we also need to understand that very often what seems like facts and academic research are also filled with lore, legend, family stories and emotion. There is a personal sense of ownership for many genealogists and correcting information can sometimes be a difficult process.

- Understand the capabilities of the platform. When dealing with websites that display family trees and or indexed and transcribed records, do your homework and determine what

can and what can't be done. This may include having to read the Terms of Service agreement to understand who owns user data once it is uploaded.

- Ask and ask nicely. When dealing with other researchers online, a "virtual" smile goes a long way. Let the other person know that you've found other information related to a specific person, place or event and ask them if they'd like the data for their own research. Also ask them to update any online postings not to prove that your research is "correct" or "better," but to help all genealogists who come upon the research in the future.
- Avoid "right" and "wrong" statements. The easiest way to alienate a fellow genealogist is to tell them that their research is wrong. Even if the research is incorrect, your goal should be to

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(What's Been Done... continued from page 6)

improve the current research and to help future researchers.

- If necessary, publish your own research. Sometimes either you can't contact the other genealogist or they refuse to update their information. Remember that you have at your disposal a variety of tools to make sure your research is just as visible as any other genealogist.

Giving and Receiving Proper Credit

Thanks to social media and education initiatives, there is more awareness of the need to credit researchers especially when narrative content is involved. While this section is not intended as a lesson on copyright law, it is an area of growing importance in the genealogy community which needs to be addressed.

First, realize that facts cannot be copyrighted (meaning birth dates, death dates, names, etc.) But narrative text, say in a genealogy report that you

put together, is protected by copyright. Even so, if you get a great lead on your own research from what someone else has posted, here's some advice:

- Contact the researcher, if possible. State how you want to use the research (especially if you intend to publish the information in print or online in a blog or website), show how you will credit the researcher and then thank them for their hard work.
- Build a relationship. Briefly mention how you are related to the research, or if representing a client, how your client is related.

So what do you do if a researcher is overly possessive of the information and doesn't want to share?

- Stick to the facts and cite your sources. Again, if it is facts, then technically you can use the information. However, if it is sourced, I would do

the research myself and then use the facts as I wanted. Make sure your source citations states when you found the record!

- Write your own narrative. If the person refuses to give permission to use their narrative, realize that they have that right. You'll need to do your own narrative; sorry, there is no shortcut here!
- Reference, but don't plagiarize. For research, you can reference that person's research with a footnote as long as you don't reproduce the entire text.

And what about getting credit for your own work? Well, if you do find that someone has used your research and published it without giving you credit (and, again, we're talking narrative content), then you have several options:

- Advocate and educate. Often, these

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(What's Been Done... continued from page 7)

situations occur with new genealogists who don't understand copyright or the need to give credit. Be courteous and let them know that you need attribution and why.

- Be steadfast. Occasionally you will find a person who knew what they were doing and didn't care. Hold your ground. Research your options and also remember to pick your battles. Is a confrontation - either online or in person - really worth it?

Tips and Tricks for Incorporating Research

- Take inventory. You can't put together an action plan if you don't know what you've received in terms of outside research.



- Carefully review the content - both paper and digital - and sort into folders or groups. Create a tracking list or spreadsheet and mark off items that have been reviewed, the source of the information, and whether it or not it has been added to your research.
- Evaluate. Evaluate. The most important step in the incorporation process is to thoroughly evaluate each data point - such as a birth date or death location - and ensure that it is valid. Remember to use the Genealogy Proof Standard as a guide and if any data seems "iffy," err on the side of NOT adding it to your research.
- Never import outside data directly into your genealogy database. Whether the data is in a GEDCOM file or some other format, always know what you are bringing into your genealogy database. Remember that is not always easy to remove

data once it has been incorporated into your research.

- Focus on data preservation. If you've received printed genealogy research, make sure you have scanned the pages and converted to digital format. For GEDCOM and other files, ensure there is one or more backups of the data. For data imported from websites and online family trees, create a "holding folder" on your computer and make sure there is a backup copy.
- Share and share responsibly. Once you've added new data from others, determine the benefits of sharing your finds with others. For living persons, always ask permission first, and for stories and narratives, remember that copyright issues might be involved. When sharing, including a source citation to assist other researchers.

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(See Resource List on page 9)

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Resource List

Genealogy Research Log

<http://www.genealogyresearchlog.com>

I just inherited a huge pile of genealogy. Now what?

<http://genealogystar.blogspot.com/2015/03/i-just-inherited-huge-pile-of-genealogy.html>

QuickLesson 17: The Evidence Analysis Process Map

<https://www.evidenceexplained.com/content/quicklesson-17-evidence-analysis-process-map>

The 3 Cs: Organizing Research Inherited from a Relative

<https://blog.myheritage.com/2016/06/the-3-cs-organizing-research-inherited-from-a-relative/>

Where to Start When You Inherit Genealogy

<http://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1028&context=byufamilyhistorian>

Why My Interest in Genealogy

by Alice Bredeson Zweifel

Asked to share some of my experiences from the last 50+ years, I am submitting a few articles for the monthly newsletter. Keep in mind that most of my research was done prior to the internet.

I am an inveterate “people watcher.” When I was a tot, my mom never learned to drive, so when Dad took her to Madison to shop, he’d park the Model A Ford around Capitol Square and use his binoculars to entertain us four youngest children as we waited for Mom to return. People on sidewalks make marvelous case studies. “That fellow looks troubled. I wonder what he is worried about? There’s one walking with a limp. How do you suppose he was injured? Hey, that

lady has one sock of each color!” We’d take turns looking through the binoculars, observe the details, then conjure stories about those strangers. Thus, at a young age, I noticed facial expressions, paid attention to physical details, and listened to other people’s stories. Those traits served me well.

I’ve been a teacher of English and Spanish, department chairperson, curriculum coordinator, supervisor of student teachers, artist, writer, and poet. I organized and taught a pre-school for twenty-two 3-5 year olds, served as board member and local historian for a public library, chaired many committees, and was elected president of sev-

eral organizations. When a substitute teacher, I taught every subject K-12. I was an officer and publicity liaison for Wisconsin Council for Gifted and Talented and co-authored *Gifted Kids*, a resource for identifying and teaching academically gifted students. My last 15 years of employment were as Direc-



tor of Christian Education for a large congregation.

Meanwhile, my favorite hobby since 1966 became

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genealogical research. When pregnant teachers were not permitted in a classroom, I quit teaching to start a family. I sewed maternity clothes, draperies, baby's wardrobe; embroidered a long baptismal gown, finished several oil paintings, and was still ready to climb the walls. Someone gave me a baby book which contained a small pedigree chart. Before my child was born, I started asking questions of elderly relatives in order to fill out only three generations.

My Bredeson grandmother died in 1901, my grandfather in 1942, and my father in 1961. I was told a cousin in Dekorah, IA, had a book her father had written. I wrote asking her to copy the names plus birth and death dates for my great-grandparents. She was over 80 and couldn't see to translate the 1850's dialect in old Norwegian script, but lent me the book. Because she had known my father, she trusted me to return the book.

I couldn't write, or read, or speak Norwegian, but I recognized a couple of pages written in Latin then used my Latin dictionary, a Norwegian dictionary, and a Swedish dictionary to translate the script word by word. It was a notebook kept by my great uncle Rev. Adolph Kjelsen Bredesen who was for 30 years pas-

tor in Stoughton and Deerfield plus Director of Martin Luther Children's Home. He preached fluently in English, German, and Norwegian. The Norwegian Lutheran Church in America had sent him as a synod speaker to Norway in 1900. While there, he visited relatives and copied baptisms, marriages, and burials from church records in Våler, Hof, and Åsnæs districts of Solør in Hedmark. Once translated, I charted the results and added descendants of my grandfather Bernhard Kjelsen Bredeson's 14 children. In 1968, I took a few copies to a family reunion.

When I found a name, I wanted to know more. When and where did that person live? What was his occupation? Was anything written about him? What kind of personality did he exhibit? Did he have any distinguishing physical features? Does anyone have a photo of him? What was going on in that part of the world at that time? I read pertinent history books. I borrowed and scanned old photos of relatives, homesites, and churches adding those to biographies. Eventually, I had a story worthy of print with an understanding of my father's ancestors and what traits they may have passed on to my children. Later, I found in Norwegian archives even earlier ancestors, found their rural homesites, visited living fourth and fifth cousins in Norway,

and compiled the history I had found plus all the descendants of my great-great grandparents into a book of almost 1000 pages - Bredesen/Bredeson/Stræte Genealogy from prehistoric times to 1996.

While I was doing that, my husband said, "What about my side?" I published the Genealogy of the Zweifel Family 1500-1972, which traced the ancestry and descendants of six Zweifel brothers who came to New Glarus, WI, in the 1850's. His mother said "What about me?" I published the Genealogy of the Elmer Families of Green County, WI, 1289-1975. I conducted research for others with roots in Kanton Glarus, Switzerland, and the Sognefjord area of Norway. Once my children were adults and I retired from ministry, I published the 850-page Gunderson/Husebøe Genealogy from Leikanger, Sogn & Fjordane, Norway, from Earliest Records to 2014. I continue research for my husband's Schindler and Marti families plus my mother's Lord and Aumann families.

My goal is to complete a book on each of the eight family lines. I feel a sense of purpose in genealogical research because in 1966 someone gave me a baby book with a three-generation pedigree chart.

How to Become a Member of DCAGS

by Melodee Patterson

There are two ways to become a member of DCAGS:

- *Filling out the form online or*
- *Downloading/printing the form and mailing it in*

Either way, you start by going to the DCAGS website: <https://dcags.org>. Hover your mouse over the “Membership” tab and you’ll see a drop-down menu. Move your mouse to highlight “Join DCAGS” and click.

Select the Membership Level you want and click the “NEXT” button. What you do next will depend on how you want to fill out the form:

Download/print the membership form for mailing

On the Membership Application page, you’ll see a link that says “download our printable 2017/18 membership form.” Click that link.

A new page will open up with a PDF of the Membership Form. Download or print the form (how will depend on the browser you’re using), fill out the form and mail it to:

<p>Dane County Area Genealogical Society P.O. Box 5652 Madison, WI 53705</p>

Fill out the membership form online

On the Membership Application page, enter your email address and the security code and click the “NEXT” button.

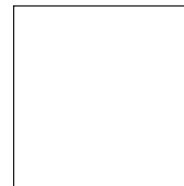
- Fill out the information in the online form (items with a red * are required) and click the “NEXT” button.
- Look over the information to be sure it’s correct and then click either the “INVOICE ME” button or the “PAY ONLINE” button. You will either be sent an invoice for your membership dues, or you will be taken to a secure PayPal page where you may pay your dues by PayPal or Credit Card.
- You can click the “CANCEL” button at any time to cancel your membership form.

All Membership Applications must be approved by the DCAGS Membership Chair. You will receive an email when you’ve submitted your application and another email once your application has been approved.

If you have any trouble filling out the Membership Form, or have questions about the DCAGS website, contact Melodee Patterson at deekae99@gmail.com.

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